

Issue NE-CW3002, released July 29, 2002, by the Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA . For more information contact us at: 100 Centennial Mall North, Suite 298, Lincoln, NE 68508, 402-437-5541, e-mail at [nass-ne@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-ne@nass.usda.gov), Internet at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>.

**Agricultural Summary:** For the week ending July 28, 2002, seasonally hot temperatures and limited rainfall allowed drought conditions to persist across much of Nebraska stressing dryland crops and pastures, according to USDA’s Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. Soil moisture supplies continued to deteriorate throughout the week despite localized rains. Irrigation systems were in full use but in some cases struggled to keep up with crop demands. Grasshoppers continued to present problems in some fields. Producer activities included irrigation and livestock care.

This release is based on reports and data from county extension educators, FSA county directors, NOAA, and the High Plains Climate Center. Weekly Weather and Crop reports back to 1947 and current county specific comments can be found at: <http://www.agr.state.ne.us/agstats/cropwthr.htm>

**Weather Summary:** Temperatures averaged from one degree below to five degrees above normals across the State. Precipitation fell statewide, however, amounts were light except in southeastern counties and the eastern most tier of counties where one inch or more was common.

**Field Crops Report:** All corn condition rated 34 percent good and excellent, well below the average of 68. Irrigated corn condition improved and rated 55 percent good and excellent, still well below the five year average of 76. Dryland corn rated 5 percent good and excellent, far below the average of 56 and near 1974 levels. The crop was 79 percent silked, slightly behind last year at 81 and average at 82. There were 23 percent of the fields in the dough stage by Sunday, ahead of last year at 15 and average at 10. Some dryland producers were preparing to harvest their corn for hay or silage.

Soybean condition declined last week and rated 21 percent very poor, 31 poor, 31 fair, 16 good, and 1 excellent, well below last

year and average. Eighty-eight percent of the fields had bloomed, nearly a week ahead of last year’s 76 and average at 80. In 40 percent of the fields, pods were being set, ahead of last year at 23 and average at 25.

Sorghum condition declined and rated 23 percent very poor, 37 poor, 34 fair, and 6 good, well below last year and average. Thirty-one percent of the fields had headed, a few days ahead of last year at 23 and average at 24.

Wheat harvest was virtually complete across the State with most of the remaining fields to be harvested in the Panhandle.

Oat harvest progressed to 91 percent complete, over a week ahead of last year at 71 and average at 77.

Dry bean fields had bloomed on 56 percent of the acreage, behind last year’s 66 and average at 68. Pods had been set on 19 percent of the acreage, behind last year’s 26 and near average. Condition rated 3 percent very poor, 13 poor, 36 fair, 41 good, and 7 excellent.

Alfalfa condition rated 37 percent very poor, 34 poor, 23 fair, and 6 good, well below last year and average. Second cutting activities were virtually complete at 97 percent, ahead of last year and average at 89. Third cuttings made good progress where growth was sufficient for harvest and rated 26 percent complete, well ahead of last year at 9 and average at 6.

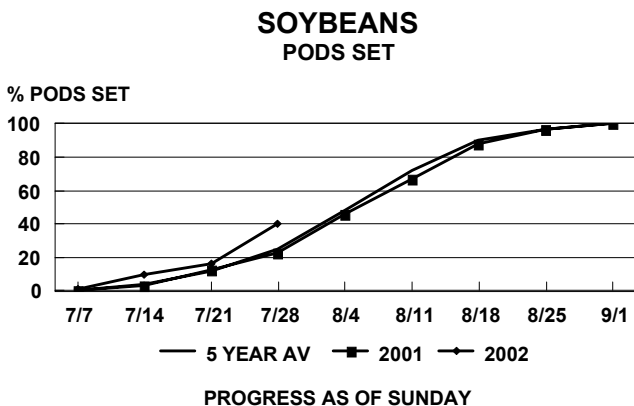
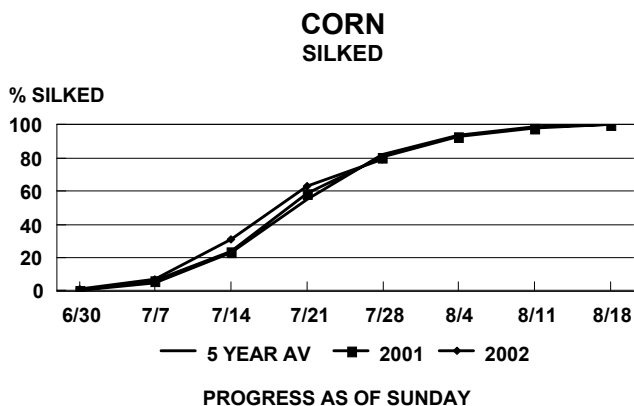
Wild hay condition rated 38 percent very poor, 31 poor, 26 fair, and 5 good.

**Livestock, Pasture, and Range Report:** Pasture and range conditions continue to decline and rated 58 percent very poor, 31 poor, 10 fair, and 1 good, well below average. Many producers continued to provide supplemental feed, move cattle to dry lots, and/or cull deeper into their herds.

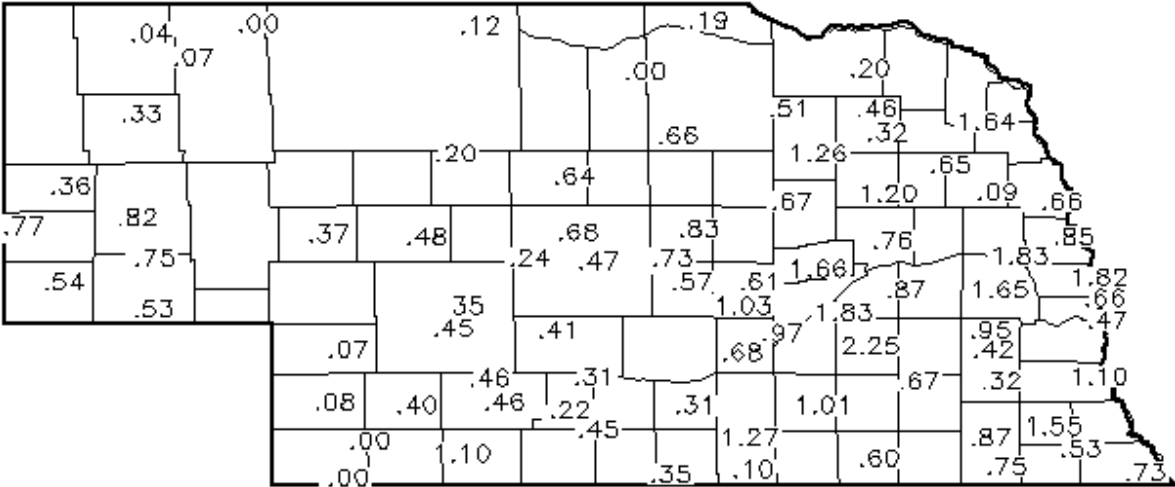
Progress and Conditions: By District, Nebraska, as of July 28, 2002

Item	Agricultural Statistics Districts								State	Last Week	Last Year	Average
	NW	NC	NE	C	EC	SW	SC	SE				
% Corn Silked	38	75	76	97	81	67	85	92	79	63	81	82
% Corn Dough	0	15	10	15	20	18	24	41	23	8	15	10
% Soybeans Blooming	<sup>1</sup>	92	90	75	80	72	90	96	88	72	76	80
% Soybeans Setting Pods	<sup>1</sup>	51	35	40	36	37	48	48	40	16	23	25
% Sorghum Headed	0	15	20	29	26	21	33	37	31	11	23	24
% Alfalfa 3 <sup>rd</sup> Cutting	0	39	25	15	17	22	51	41	26	8	9	6
Days Suitable for Fieldwork	7.0	6.7	5.8	7.0	6.1	6.9	6.9	6.6	6.5	7.0	5.2	5.7
Topsoil Moisture												
- % Very short	70	74	73	77	59	68	88	87	73	69	8	15
- % Short	21	23	22	22	35	16	12	13	21	22	33	34
- % Adequate	9	3	5	1	6	15	0	0	6	9	58	49
- % Surplus	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
Subsoil Moisture												
- % Very Short	84	65	75	71	68	74	86	85	75	66	8	16
- % Short	15	31	23	28	30	21	14	14	23	24	38	30
- % Adequate	1	4	2	1	2	5	0	1	2	10	54	54
- % Surplus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

<sup>1</sup> Data not available.



Precipitation in Inches for Week Ending July 28, 2002



Precipitation: By District, Nebraska, April 1 - July 28, 2002

Item	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	.37	.29	.82	.69	1.05	.23	.53	.90
Total since April 1	3.81	5.80	9.36	6.38	10.66	4.90	6.38	10.29
Normal since April 1	9.91	11.92	13.51	12.81	14.03	11.49	12.55	14.37
Total as % of normal	38%	48%	68%	49%	75%	42%	50%	71%

Source: High Plains Climate Center data as of 8:00 a.m.

Temperature and Growing Degree Days: By Location, Nebraska,  
Week Ending Sunday, July 28, 2002

Station		Temperature				Growing Degree Days Since April 15		
		Extremes		Average	Departure	Last Week	Current	Normal
		High	Low					
NW	Alliance	99	51	73	0	137	1545	1499
	Scottsbluff	99	53	74	1	144	1642	1497
	Sidney	100	55	76	2	157	1643	1534
NC	Ainsworth	100	57	77	3	170	1771	1650
	Arthur	101	53	75	1	161	1636	1613
	O'Neill	99	56	78	3	174	1797	1727
NE	Concord	95	56	76	0	169	1822	1770
	Elgin	97	58	77	1	172	1832	1770
	West Point	94	57	77	0	173	1872	1872
C	Grand Island	94	60	77	1	175	1894	1793
	Lexington	97	61	78	2	178	1932	1761
	Ord	99	58	78	2	175	1848	1779
EC	Lincoln	99	61	80	2	191	2079	1965
	Central City	95	59	77	1	176	1914	1821
	Mead	96	56	77	-1	173	1973	1937
SW	Champion	102	52	76	1	173	1760	1653
	North Platte	100	59	77	2	171	1824	1671
	Curtis	102	57	80	5	178	1862	1699
SC	Arapahoe	101	56	76	2	156	1658	1607
	Minden	95	60	77	2	177	1895	1768
	Red Cloud	102	61	81	5	181	2065	1814
SE	Beatrice	98	59	79	0	179	2008	1965
	Clay Center	95	60	77	1	173	1884	1810
	Nemaha	100	63	81	3	195	2111	1988

Source: High Plains Climate Center.